

Lincoln-Sunset Local Historical District Study Committee Meeting
January 11, 2016
1st Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

PRESENT: Steve Bloom, Suzannah Fabing, Bill Gillen, Bonnie MacCracken, Nathaniel Malloy (Planning Department), Philip Shaver, Ann Sutliff

ABSENT: James Wald (Select Board)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Richard Bentley, Paige Wilder, Ed Wilfert,

1. Announcements and Minutes:

- A) Minutes of prior meeting approved without comment.
- B) As of December 31, 2015, Gretchen Fox has resigned as a member of the Study Committee, leaving the post of Vice-Chair vacant.
- C) The CPA Committee will review the LHD Study Committee's request for a grant at an open hearing on February 2 at 7:40 pm.
- D) Handouts: Excerpts from "Establishing Local Historical Districts" delineating the difference between an LHD and a National Register District and defining "intrusions" in LHDs as opposed to "contributing" or "non-contributing" properties in National Register Districts; Map of proposed boundaries, as of October 5, 2015.

2. Committee Business

- A) Suzannah Fabing was elected the new Vice-Chair of the Committee by unanimous vote.

3. Preliminary Study Report

- A) Discussion of the western boundary of Amity Street. Steve Bloom made the following motion:

"I move that 245 Amity Street comprise the westernmost boundary of Amity Street in the North Prospect-Lincoln-Sunset Local Historical District."

Suzannah Fabing seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote, 6-0.

- B) The 100 block of Fearing Street was discussed at great length and it was generally agreed that the block needed to be included for the physical continuity of the LHD.

C) Properties on 138 and 140 Sunset Avenue were discussed. The issue was whether the two properties, both of which are situated well off the street, should be included. Both properties are out of sight from the public way, a criteria for inclusion in an LHD. Philip Shaver made the following motion:

"I move that the properties on 138 and 140 Sunset Avenue not be included in the North Prospect-Lincoln-Sunset Local Historical District."

Ann Sutliff seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote, 6-0.

D) Paige Wilder made a case for including properties beyond the northern side of Fearing Street, stating that the immediate surrounding properties were of equal age, character and historic value and to exclude them would be arbitrary.

E) Long, heated discussion of the properties on North Pleasant Street along the western perimeter of Kendrick Park. Ed Wilfert maintained that the properties were an integral part of the *Curragh*, the Irish-American part of the neighborhood, and to exclude them would destroy the fabric of the LHD. He also wanted the research on them updated since his research proved much of it to be inaccurate. Steve Bloom was resistant to including the properties on North Pleasant Street and the end of McClellan since they are primarily rentals and he believed their owners would be opposed to having their rental properties being subject to an LHD's provisions. Bill Gillen, drawing on his long experience as architect, speculated that developers might be receptive to the provisions since they would know for certain what rules and restrictions they were operating under.

F) Bonnie McCracken suggested that the Committee contact Hampshire College about possibly arranging to create a Work-Study internship program for undergraduates to assist the Committee. Last semester, several interns from Hampshire College worked very successfully and productively with the Historical Society, on which Bonnie serves. Steve Bloom said he would follow-up on the idea.

4. Next Meeting

A) Monday, February 1, 2016 at 3:00 P.M.

5. Adjournment

A) Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Bloom, Clerk
cc: LHDSC
Nathaniel Malloy